



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 5.0 percent for March 2002, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from February's rate of 5.1 percent, and up one and seven-tenths of a percentage point from March 2001's rate of 3.3 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from February to March by 100 individuals, while a decrease of 300 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,900 in February to 12,600 in March. The decrease in the number employed and the decrease in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 400 individuals from February to March 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 7,100 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the February 2002 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: February 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,076	8,264	4.5	174,812
Adams	1,583	212	13.4	1,371
Boise	2,422	118	4.9	2,304
Canyon	70,251	4,597	6.5	65,654
Elmore	10,014	668	6.7	9,346
Gem	6,766	624	9.2	6,142
Owyhee	4,177	197	4.7	3,980
Payette	10,205	885	8.7	9,320
Valley	4,131	361	8.7	3,770
Washington	4,502	314	7.0	4,188
Statewide	693,632	38,941	5.6	654,691

About 1,800 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between February and March 2002, which corresponds to a decrease of 900 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since March 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a gain of 300 jobs month-over-month with the only job loss occurring in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manu-*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,800	253,200	245,700	-0.2	2.9
Unemployment	12,600	12,900	8,000	-2.3	57.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.1	3.3		
Total Employment	240,200	240,300	237,700	0.0	1.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,900	251,800	244,700	0.0	2.9
Unemployment	13,100	14,700	8,500	-10.9	54.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.8	3.5		
Total Employment	238,800	237,100	236,200	0.7	1.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	229,000	227,200	229,900	0.8	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Construction & Mining	50,200	49,900	54,000	0.6	-7.0
Manufacturing	15,800	15,400	16,100	2.6	-1.9
Durable Goods	34,400	34,500	37,900	-0.3	-9.2
Lumber & Wood Products	26,200	26,300	29,500	-0.4	-11.2
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	3,100	3,000	3,000	3.3	3.3
Other Lumber & Wood Products	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	2,300	2,200	2,200	4.5	4.5
Ind & Com Mach & Computer Equip	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Electronic & Other Elect Equip. & Comp	7,400	7,400	8,400	0.0	-11.9
Transportation Equipment	11,200	11,400	13,300	-1.8	-15.8
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,900	0.0	-10.5
Food & Kindred Products	8,200	8,200	8,400	0.0	-2.4
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	5,500	5,500	5,600	0.0	-1.8
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	178,800	177,300	175,900	0.8	1.6
Transportation	12,000	12,000	12,400	0.0	-3.2
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Ser	6,800	6,800	6,900	0.0	-1.4
Trade	5,200	5,200	5,500	0.0	-5.5
Wholesale Trade	55,600	55,200	55,800	0.7	-0.4
Durable Goods	12,700	12,600	12,700	0.8	0.0
Nondurable Goods	7,800	7,800	7,800	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	4,900	4,800	4,900	2.1	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	42,900	42,600	43,100	0.7	-0.5
Foods Stores	5,400	5,400	5,600	0.0	-3.6
Eating & Drinking Places	7,400	7,400	7,600	0.0	-2.6
Other Retail Trade	15,300	15,100	15,300	1.3	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	14,800	14,700	14,600	0.7	1.4
Services	11,700	11,600	11,300	0.9	3.5
Business Services	62,600	62,000	61,300	1.0	2.1
Health Services	14,000	14,000	15,200	0.0	-7.9
Hospitals	19,200	19,100	17,700	0.5	8.5
Eng, Acct., Res, Mngmt., & Related	9,200	9,100	8,100	1.1	13.6
Other Services	5,400	5,300	5,000	1.9	8.0
Government	24,000	23,600	23,400	1.7	2.6
Federal Government	36,900	36,500	35,100	1.1	5.1
State Government	5,200	5,200	5,000	0.0	4.0
Education	13,900	13,600	13,400	2.2	3.7
Administration	4,700	4,600	4,500	2.2	4.4
Local Government	9,200	9,000	8,900	2.2	3.4
Education	17,800	17,700	16,700	0.6	6.6
Administration	11,800	11,700	11,100	0.9	6.3
	6,000	6,000	5,600	0.0	7.1

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

facturing (200) and job gains occurring in *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Mining & Construction* (400). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,800 jobs including losses in: *Mining & Construction* (300), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,000), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (2,100), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products* (100). *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to create an increase in employment over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

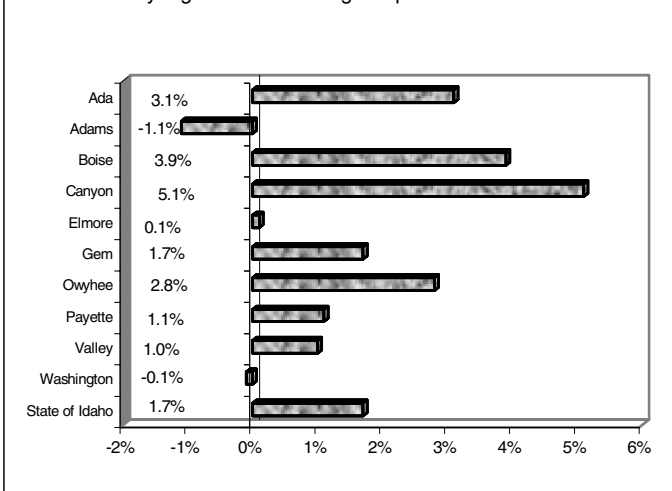
Service-Producing Industries gained 1,500 jobs between February and March 2002. No industry experienced a loss over the month, but increases were noted in *Nondurable Goods* (100), *Wholesale Trade* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (200), *Other Retail Trade* (100), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), *Other Services* (400), *State Government Education* (100), *State Government Administration* (200), and *Local Government Education* (100). Over the past year, there was an increase of 2,900 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (400), *Health Services* (1,500), primarily *Hospitals* (1,100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (400), *Other Services* (600), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Education* (200), *State Government Administration* (300), *Local Government Education* (700), and *Local Government Administration* (400) outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (300), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Food Stores* (200), and *Business Services* (1,200).

SPECIAL TOPICS

2001 Population Update

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2001 population data, and Treasure Valley Figure 1 illustrates the percent change in population for all ten Southwest Idaho counties; the FYI section at the end of this newsletter shows the population data for 2000 and 2001 for all counties in the state (see FYI Table 2 on page 22). As shown in the Figure 1, all counties in Southwest Idaho showed an increase in population over the year, with the exception of Adams and Washington Counties. Ada County gained 9,446 residents over the year, or 3.1 percent; Adams County lost 39 residents, or 1.1 percent; Boise County gained 266 residents, or 3.9 percent; Canyon County gained 6,781 residents, or 5.1 percent; Elmore County gained 36 residents, or 0.1 percent; Gem County gained 257 residents, or 1.7 percent; Owyhee County gained 302 residents, or 2.8 percent; Payette County

Treasure Valley Figure 1: Percentage Population Growth 2000-2001



gained 223 residents, or 1.1 percent; Valley County gained 78 residents, or 1.0 percent; and Washington County lost 12 residents, or 0.1 percent over the year. The State of Idaho gained 21,748 residents over the year, or 1.7 percent, with 80.0 percent of the new individuals residing in Southwest Idaho; as of July 1, 2001, 42.1 percent of Idaho residents live in Southwest Idaho. In comparison with counties across the nation, Canyon and Boise Counties can be found on the 100 fastest growing counties in the nation, ranked 48 and 90, respectively (Teton County ranked 37 on that list), and of the 100 largest gaining counties, Ada County and Canyon County come in at 69 and 97, respectively, from growth occurring between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- WorkSOURCE and Centennial Job Corps will host the first annual Treasure Valley Youth Career Lift-Off on May 15 at the Job Corps facility, 2101 Ridgcrest Drive. The 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. event will feature exhibits from employers, educational institutions, government programs, nonprofit organizations, and many others sharing their employment opportunities, volunteer needs, services, and available programs. For more information, go to <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>.
- EDS announced plans in early April to lay off 100 call center employees and release another 125 temporary workers in the Boise area when it moves some operations to a Canadian site. The layoffs will occur sometime before June. EDS made a statement that there were no plans to close any Boise facilities. The affected call center employees provided customer support for HP; although the contract will be honored, the support will come from an EDS site in Canada.
- Bruegger's Bagels sold its four Treasure Valley locations to local businessman Cliff Starman, who reopened three of them under the name Rocky Mountain Bagel Company. The fourth location, at 1113

Park Center Boulevard, was closed. Starman plans to open another store near Boise Towne Square within the year.

- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its new cancer clinic in early April. The new treatment center will allow St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) to provide radiation treatment to 25-30 patients per day, and will allow more cancer patients to get treatment closer to home. Now patients have the option of being treated in Meridian or at the downtown Boise location.
- Meridian Ice Skating Development Fund Inc., created in 2002, aims to raise money to construct an ice rink with two ice sheets. The group could build a temporary rink by fall 2002, but plans are to build a rink sometime in 2003. The group would need to raise \$1.5 million in addition to donated labor. Meridian's Parks and Recreation Department has already set aside two acres in Settlers Park as a potential location for the ice rink.
- In March, the Meridian City Council approved a proposal to build a 92-room Hampton Inn and two nearby office buildings near the Eagle Road exit of I-84. The three-story, 50,000-square-foot hotel is scheduled to open as early as late fall 2002. The two offices will have about 25,000-square feet, combined. Hampton Inn is a division of the Hilton Hotel chain.
- Extended Systems laid off 15 employees in Boise and 18 other employees worldwide in early April after an announcement to investors that the company won't meet revenue expectations for the first quarter of 2002. Analysts predict that the continuing technology slump will keep the company away from the "fast track back to profitability." Analysts also predict that technology spending will increase in the second half of the calendar year. The company still employs 175 people at the Boise facility and 291 people worldwide.
- Hewlett-Packard (HP) introduced two lightweight projectors in mid-April. The HP Digital Projector model xb31 offers the industry's leading brightness in the three-pound class at 1,500 lumens. Model xb21 is the lightest projector in the 1,000 lumens class and weighs just 2.2 pounds. The estimated prices for these models are \$3,699 for the xb31 and \$2,499 for the xb21. The official count has been released, and the HP-Compaq merger is now final. The votes were tallied and the newly merged company officially began trading on the NYSE on May 6, 2002 with HPQ as the ticker symbol. The launch for the new company was May 7, 2002.
- In early April, Micron Technology, Inc. lifted a 10-month hiring freeze and restored full pay to employees forced to take a 10 percent salary cut in fall 2001. Salaries for top executives are still docked by 20 percent, but the majority of workers have their

full pay restored. Analysts see the lifting of the hiring freeze as a big event for the Treasure Valley, as it is a sure sign that the recession is receding, or at least slowing down. Micron is the Treasure Valley's largest employer, and a number of persons are hired each month at the manufacturing facility in east Boise. Other area businesses were pleased about the announcement because when Micron is profitable, it pays its employees bonuses, which often is spent on big ticket items at Treasure Valley businesses. In related Micron Technology news, the proposed deal between Hynix and Micron ended in early May when Hynix board members rejected the plan and Micron announced that the company withdrew from the discussions because all parties involved could not reach a timely agreement.

- MicronPC recently secured a contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The contract allows the company to supply the agency's technology needs, including hardware, software, and networking products, for the next five years. MicronPC will share the contract with GTSI, Planet Gov and Compaq, and will share in the \$1.375 billion over the life of the contract. The company also posted its second consecutive profitable quarter, and executives at MicronPC are excited about the gains. After being purchased by Gores Technology, the company has started "focusing on selected segments and providing a superior level of service and support" that has proven to be the right approach for the company. The company plans to grow its share in government and small/medium business segments for the rest of 2002.
- ZiLOG reported its losses for 2001 at \$123.7 million, compared to a \$58.2 million loss in 2000; company officials ascribed the loss to lower sales. ZiLOG filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 on February 28 as part of a prepackaged reorganization plan in which its creditors will receive stock in exchange for canceling ZiLOG's debts.
- The city of Nampa announced that it will hire a public information officer in an effort to improve communication between city government and the community. The position will handle questions from the news media, conduct information campaigns, and act as a liaison between the mayor, city council members, and the general public. The \$42,702 salary for the position will come from two existing secretarial positions in the mayor's office that are not currently filled. The city is not taking additional applications for the position, although a final selection has not been made.

Adams County

- The Adams County Historical Society recently was granted a \$150,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce's economic development pro-

gram for the renovation of the former railroad depot in New Meadows. The long-anticipated project will start this year. The money from the grant will be combined with the \$241,000 grant awarded in 1999 by the Idaho Transportation Department. The renovation project will include repairing the roof, renovating the exterior brickwork, extending the south wall of the depot's freight room and renovating the area into a 1,750-square-foot multipurpose area with a portable stage, and renovating the restrooms on the main floor. The project is expected to be completed sometime this year. The Adams County Historical Society is seeking additional grants totaling \$450,000 for the restoration of the rest of the depot.

Elmore County

- Excavation has begun on the Mountain Home railroad underpass project. The excavation should be completed by June and then construction of the bridge will start. The \$18 million project is expected to take 2 ½ years to complete.
- The Magic West processing plant in Glenns Ferry will be sold to Idahoan Foods of Lewisville. Roger Jones, owner of Magic Valley Foods and Magic West, Inc. announced in early April that an agreement was made on his intent to sell the Magic West plant in Glenns Ferry and the Magic Valley Foods plant in Rupert to Idahoan Foods. The sale of the two processing plants will allow Jones to focus more attention on two other area businesses: Carmela Winery in Glenns Ferry, and Quality Produce in Boise. No other information regarding Magic West was available.
- Construction is scheduled to begin on the new Mountain Home police station on May 15. The site of the new police station is located behind Wal-Mart on East Eighth North Street; the 9,100-square-foot, \$2,075,000 project is expected to take a year to complete.
- Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) has scheduled ten construction projects this summer totaling more than \$24 million. Six different contractors will be working on the projects that include resurfacing the runway, repaving the "transient" ramp located in front of the base operations, replacing the instrument landing system, performing environmental remediation on several sites, upgrading the airfield approach lighting, installing a new main sewer line around the north end of the runway, repairing a major drainage ditch, replacing a portion of Alpine Street, repairing a portion of the JP-8 fuel hydrant system, and replacing 135 slabs on taxiway Alpha. Enhanced security procedures, including re-routing traffic, will be established to help facilitate all of the construction efforts.

Gem County

- In late March the Gem County Jail Citizens' Committee proposed a new site for the new jail. The group considered five sites, but proposed that a new jail be located behind the Gem County Courthouse. There were several advantages to this site, including its proximity to the Gem County Sheriff's Department (eliminating the expense of replacing these offices), the proximity to the courthouse, already existing utilities, and the fact that the property already belongs to the county. One consideration is how the new jail facility would fit behind the courthouse in addition to the parking concerns that this would cause; however, the committee is certain that it won't be a problem. The Gem County Jail Citizens' committee meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Gem County Courthouse in Emmett.

Payette County

- El Tenampa Restaurant opened recently at Gayway Junction in Fruitland. The restaurant is located at 1619 North Whitley Drive, formerly Uncle Brian's Famous Pizza, and the facility has been completely remodeled. This is the fourth El Tenampa restaurant to open in the area with other restaurants located in Nampa, Meridian, and Horseshoe Bend.
- The Payette Valley Gardeners have started the Memorial Rose Garden expansion project. The Memorial Rose Garden is located in Payette's Central Park; the project includes enlarging the rose beds and adding a gazebo and benches. Part of the project will be funded by selling engraved bricks, which will be incorporated into the new garden design. The bricks cost \$35 and have room for 15 letters.

Valley County

- Steve Rosen of Troon Golf recently was hired to run day-to-day operations of the Shore Lodge and the new golf course. The latest plan for the resort is a part-private, part-public facility, where there will be membership fees. Paying guests of the Shore Lodge also will be able to use the golf course. Officials at the lodge expect the resort to open near June 1.

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